BHEL in equipment supplies to the refineries at Panipat, Mathura and Barauni; and

(b) is so, the details and reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Due to the following reasons, there has been some delay in the supply of equipment by BHEL to IOCL's refineries at Panipat, Mathura and Barauni:—

(i) Change in Design of Generator for Panipat Captive Power Plant (CPP) by Project Authorities after award of contract.

(ii) Introduction of Consultant by Project Authorities for Panipat CPP after award of contract led to increase in Engineering hours not envisaged by BHEL while bidding for the contract.

(iii) Delay in issuing essentiality certificate required for imported materials/components by the project authorities for Mathura CPP, led to delay in procurement and equipment supply by BHEL.

(iv) Supply delays by BHEL's Sub Vendors.

(v) Delayed receipt of input raw materials by BHEL from indigenous and imported sources.

Exploration of diamonds in Madhya Pradesh

*67. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT
RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what has happened to the matter of leases for exploration of diamonds in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) what is the role of Government in this matter; and

(c) what steps are being taken to see that the exploration begins early?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) As per information available, an advertisement was placed in May, 1994 in the leading national newspapers and letters were addressed to the embassies of the leading industrialised countries of the world by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, inviting applications from reputed Indian companies and international companies incorporated/ registered in India, with full details of their expertise, technical strength, financial resources and the plan for prospecting the diamond deposits at the first stage and mining, processing and marketing in the second, in eastern Madhya Pradesh.

In response to this advertisement, applicants and letters from 23 companies/ individuals from India and abroad, showing an interest in this activity, were received. The State Government appointed a High Powered Committee to decide parameters for evaluating the same.

On 17th June, '94 the Committee scrutinised the various applications and shortlisted the following five parties for detailed discussion.

(i) CRA Exploration Ltd. Melbourne, Australia (CRA)

(ii) Ashton Mining India Limited (AMIL)

(iii) De Beers Centenary AG (De Beers)

(iv) National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)

(v) Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL)

On 30th July, 1994, Government of Madhya Pradesh took a prima facie decision approving the recommendations of the Committee regarding short listing of Companies. In September, 1994 State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh submitted a report on prospecting licences in respect of diamond and alexendrite deposits in

eastern Madhya Pradesh and solicited and approval of Govt. of India on:—

(1) Permission to award a prospecting licence for diamonds over an area of 17,300 Sq. Kms. in favour of De Beers (India) Prospecting Ltd.

(2) A prospecting licence in favour of CRA for 7,960 Sq. Kms. over an area applied for by CRA which has not already been given to De Beers (India) Prospecting Ltd.

(3) A prospecting licence for 1,465 Sq. Kms. in favour of AMIL as De Beers and CRA have not applied for it.

In the meantime, as part of liberalization under National Mineral Policy, 1993, Government of India issued new guidelines whereby the area under prospecting licence which a company could hold was increased from 25 Sq. Kms. to 10,000 Sq. Kms. Central Government returned all the three above mentioned proposals asking the State Government to re-examine and re-submit these proposals in the light of the above mentioned guidelines issued on 30.10.1996.

However, on 6.2.1997, the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh informed Government of India that all three above mentioned proposals for grant of prospecting licence in favour of M/s. De Beers, M/s. Ashton and CRA may be treated as cancelled.

On 29.4.97 a proposal was received from State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh asking the Central Govt. to ratify the action taken by Madhya Pradesh in appointing Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Ltd. as the sole agent for exploration and exploitation of diamond in 11 districts of Madhya Pradesh done under Rule 75 of Mineral Conression Rules, 1960. The proposal was examined and was returned to the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh as it was not consistant with provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder.

As on date no proposal for grant of mineral concessions for diamonds from Madhya Pradesh is pending with the Central Government.

(b) Mining rights are granted by the concerned State Governments in accordance with provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, and the rules made thereunder. As per the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, mining rights can be given only to an Indian National or a company defined in sub-section (1) of Section (3) of the 'Companies' Act, 1956. Provided that in respect of any mineral specified in the 1st Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, no prospecting licence or mining lease shall be granted except with the previous approval of the Central Government. "Diamonds" are covered under the aforesaid 1st Schedule of the Act.

(c) As per the information furnished by State Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has now invited offers from companies registered in India by issuing advertisement in various news papers dated 10.10.1997 for formation of Joint Venture Company (JVC) with the M.P. State Mining Corporation, for undertaking operation and subsequent mining of the diamonds in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

पिछड़ा वर्ग प्रमाण-पत्र प्राप्त करने के लिए निर्धारित दिशा-निर्देश

*68. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:**
श्री नागमणि:

क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पिछड़ा वर्ग प्रमाण-पत्र प्राप्त करने के लिए निर्धारित दिशा-निर्देश क्या हैं;

(ख) क्या ऐसे अनुरोधों पर विचार करने के लिए कोई समय-सीमा निर्धारित की गयी है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?